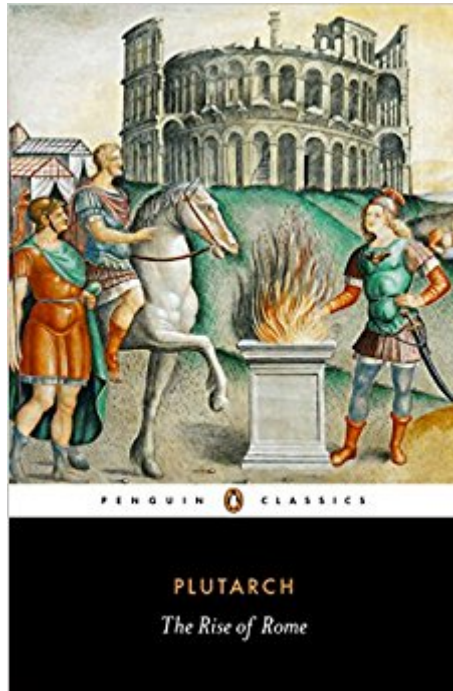


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The Rise Of Rome (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

The latest installment in our fully revised edition of Plutarch's Lives of the great men of the ancient world, this volume focusing on early Rome. The biographies collected in this volume bring together Plutarch's Lives of those great men who established the city of Rome, and his Comparisons with their notable Greek counterparts. As well as providing an illuminating picture of the first century A.D., Plutarch depicts complex heroes who display the essential virtues of Greek civilization—courage, patriotism, justice, intelligence, and reason—that contributed to the rise of Rome. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

“Fabulous selection with excellent notes.”—David A. Graf, Professor of Religious Studies, University of Miami

Plutarch (c. 45–120 A.D.), the Greek philosopher, lived at the height of the Roman Empire and is author of one of the largest and most important collections of writings to have survived from

Classical antiquity. Ian Scott-Kilvert (1917–1989) was the director of English literature at the British Council and the translator for Penguin Classics of Plutarch's *Rise and Fall of Athens and Makers of Rome*. Christopher Pelling is a professor of Greek at Christ Church, University of Oxford. Jeffrey Tatum is a professor of classics at Victoria University of Wellington.

"The Rise of Rome" is actually a revised compendium of Plutarch's *Parallel Lives: Complete*, in which he analyzed and brought forth commentary about Greek and Roman rulers of Antiquity, focusing on their similarities and how they helped create the world of Antiquity. This nice compendium just focuses on the Roman statesmen who founded the city (supposedly) and led her to greatness, eventually overtaking the Greeks as the proto-Western civilization that would dominate the late ancient world. The book itself is only 583 pages of text from Plutarch's larger work, with some commentary by the authors introducing the reader to the individual that Plutarch is writing about, so that provides additional historical commentary that is valuable. At the end, it also contains a few nice maps and a large bibliography and index. "The Rise of Rome," is not one of Plutarch's actual works, as mentioned, this is just a revised version of his *Lives* solely looking at the Romans but for Roman historians or lay persons, this is a nice selection as one can look just at the Roman figures. Plutarch's "The Fall of the Roman Republic" is his singular work covering Roman history during his lifetime. It is a worthwhile book and a nice revision. On a side note about Plutarch himself, his account of the *Lives* is generally regarded as a classic work of ancient history, but is filled with embellishments (as was common among Antiquity historians), so that is just a forewarning. The work starts with the mythical founder of Rome (contra to Virgil's *The Aeneid*) with Romulus and ends with Aemilius Paullus of the notable Paullus Family. The content on the Elder Cato is also very worthwhile.

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